areas including the area in Chingleput district receiving Mettur power. On a representation from the agiculturists of Kadambathur area on 2nd April 1956, instructions were issued to restore the supply for agricultural consumers in that area to 20 hours a day to save the standing crops and this was given effect to from 4th April 1956. On a similar representation from the agriculturists of the Tiruvallur area on 17th May 1956, supply to that area was increased to 15 hours a day with effect from 18th May 1956, keeping in view the deteriorated power position existing then and also the requirement of the agriculturists. The above restriction is not now in force either in Kadambathur area or in the Tiruvallur Municipal area.

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM: The Hon. Minister was telling that the number of hours had been increased. May I know, Sir, what portion of the increase falls during day and what portion falls during the night? I hear complaints often that the number of hours is more during the nights, which is quite useless for the agriculturists.

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: I have no information on this point. This is a general question. If a separate question is put, I shall answer. The question under reference concerns two areas in which there was an increase. We reduced the hours in all places to ten hours. Wherever there was a representation from the people, and we could also afford an increase, taking into consideration the serious condition of the crops, we relaxed the restriction to a certain extent. That is why in one place we increased the number of hours to 20. Afterwards people from another area came and made representations to the Government. At that time, the position in the hydel reservoirs had deteriorated. So we increased the number to 15 hours. I have not got information with reference to the number of hours during the day and during the night. Invariably the increase is given during the nights, I am told.

Schemes for developing water ways

* 347 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have cancelled the schemes sanctioned for the Second Five-Year Plan costing about one crore of rupees, for developing communications through rivers, canals, etc., for the benefit of commerce and trade in Malabar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: (a) & (b) The hon. Member presumably refers to the Preliminary Draft Proposals for the Second Five-Year Plan of the State in which a scheme for excavating a connecting canal between Badagara and Azhikkal at a cost of Rs. 75 lakhs was included. In

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the revised proposals sent to the Government of India, this scheme has been excluded from the Plan in view of the need for restricting expenditure to the limit of the resources available.

Tapioca industry

* 347-A *Q.*—SRI K. T. RAJU (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture has submitted any proposals during 1956 for the development of tapioca industry in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Exemption from sales tax

* 347-B *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any communication from the Centre during 1956 suggesting that essential articles of food, etc., in the State may be exempted from sales tax;

(*b*) if so, the action taken by this Government thereon;

(*c*) whether the Retail Merchants' Association, Madras, has made a representation to the Government during September 1956 requesting that a committee may be appointed to enquire into the grievances of the dealers in regard to the collection of sales tax by the Government; and

(*d*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No action was considered necessary as the Government of India have under consideration a proposal to appoint a committee to study the working of Sales Tax Acts in the States.

Turnover of dealers for registration

* 347-C *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Retail Merchants' Association, Madras, has made a representation to the Government during September 1956 that the turnover for registration may be increased from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 10,000 and that the taxable turnover may be increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000?